

Indiana Department of Correction now included in SAVIN service

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Commissioner J. David Donahue

Indianapolis, Indiana - (May 15, 2007) - Indiana residents can now track the custody status of more than 27,000 offenders in the Department of Correction and four county jails. The new Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) network now includes state inmates and offenders housed in Marion, Warrick, Floyd, and Henry County jails.

Indiana residents can register to be notified about an offender's placement, release, transfer or other change by calling 1-866-959-VINE (1-866-959-8463) or by logging onto www.vinelink.com.

Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue made the announcement as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, an annual observance dedicated to crime victims across the country.

"One of the rights of crime victims is the right to information and notification," said Donahue. "Victims and their families should be able to learn the custody status of an offender without having to deal with a massive amount of red tape."

Governor Mitch Daniels announced plans to launch SAVIN in January, making Indiana part of the statewide service nationwide. Congress approved \$17 million to fund the nationwide implementation with Indiana receiving approximately \$1.25 million. Through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and the Department of Correction, the State is providing approximately \$950,000 in matching funds.

"The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is proud to support an endeavor designed to meet the legitimate needs of crime victims throughout the State," said Mike Cunegin, executive director of ICJI. "As a state administering agency, our goal is to partner with other state agencies in an effort to develop comprehensive resources that crime victims and all Hoosiers can rely on in their time of need."

Donahue also marked the event by launching a new public awareness campaign to reach out to all Indiana residents. Click here to download PSA: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/>

"We are asking Indiana's television stations to begin airing a new 30-second public service announcement we have produced," said Donahue. "While the technical implementation will eventually be completed, the public awareness campaign will be ongoing. It is our goal to reach every citizen in this state about this potentially life-saving service."

SAVIN will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and operators will be available around the clock to answer questions or assist callers. Callers can remain anonymous when using the service. The service is available in English and Spanish.

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.